

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed March 25, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 16, 2004. However, the Applicants have not received acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 23, 2003. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 1-8 and 12-27 are pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 2, 4-11, 13, and 15-19. Remaining independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended herewith to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 12-27 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1-8 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action objects to claims 20-27 asserting that the limitation of "an area of substrate no less than 1 square meter" cannot be substantiated by the specification. It is understood that the objection is based on these claims lacking support in the subject specification. In response, it is noted that this feature of the present invention is disclosed in at least page 7, lines 3-4 of the specification. Reconsideration is requested and if further amendments to the specification are necessary to obviate this rejection, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned so that such amendments can be submitted.

The Official Action next rejects claims 1, 3, 12, 14, 20, and 22 as obvious based on U.S. Patent No. 6,858,480 to Nakamura et al. In response, independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Specifically, claim 1 has

been amended to recite an area of the mask is at most 15% of an area of the substrate and claim 3 has been amended to recite an area of the mask is at most 35% of an area of the substrate. These limitations were previously recited in allowed claims 2 and 4 and are believed to be allowable subject matter in view of the comments on page 4 of the Official Action. Favorable reconsideration in view thereof is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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